

CONSUMER-DIRECTED FINANCIAL TRANSFERS USING AUTOMATED CLEARINGHOUSE NETWORKS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Consumer directed transfers of funds over the Internet are provided by a combination of systems and networks, including the Internet, email, and the Automated Clearinghouse system (ACH). A host system provided by a funds transfer service manages requests of senders to transfer funds and further manages responses of receivers to claim funds. The host system allows the sender to initiate the funds transfer by specifying the amount of the transfer and information for contacting the receiver, without the need to specify the account of the receiver for receiving the funds. Instead, the host system contacts the receiver and informs the receiver of the available funds; the receiver can then provide the necessary target account information for completing the funds transfer. The ACH is used to effect the transfer of funds, with the host system providing instructions for ACH entries to its financial institution using account information separately received from the sender and receiver. The credit risk associated with originating ACH entries is reduced by use of the Point of Sale system to verify sufficient funds in the sender's account by comparing the closing balance of the day the funds transfer is requested with the transfer amount. Sender fraud is reduced by comparing a sender provided balance (or check number/amounts) with an account balance acquired through automated means such as the POS system or ATM network.